

TOC H JOURNAL

NEWS VIEWS AND IDEAS

FEBRUARY 1960



PUBLISHED BY TOC H AT FORTY SEVEN
FRANCIS ST LONDON EIGHTH WEST ONE



NINEPENCE

Index

The Index for Volume XXXVII is now available. Readers wishing to obtain copies are invited to send a stamped, addressed envelope (2d.) to the Editorial Office.

Grab me a Gondola

Mrs. Christopher Soames, President of The Winant and Osler Volunteers' Association in this country, will be the Guest of Honour at the Scala Theatre on Tuesday, February 16, for the special performance by the Stock Exchange Dramatic and Operatic Society in aid of the New Mark III Fund. For the very few seats still available—apply to Ken Rogers, 47, Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION



'Focus on Toc H'

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES, MARCH 7

For details and Entry Form see January JOURNAL

Toc H Diaries

Copies of the 1960 edition of the Toc H Diary, with much up-to-date information indispensable to all members, are still available. The cost is 4s. 3d. each, or fitted with pencil 4s. 9d. (both kinds sent post free). If you have not yet had yours please order without delay from Toc H Publications Dept.

Ourselves

The Toc H Journal is published monthly eleven times a year. The April issue is a double number and there is no August number. A subscription can commence with any issue and costs only 9s. for a complete year. N.B.—A price concession to 7s. 6d. per dozen, post free, is made to all Branches ordering a minimum of one dozen copies.

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

TOC H JOURNAL



FEBRUARY 1960

Letters and articles are welcomed and are printed as individual points of view only

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COVER PICTURE: Old and alone. Mr. Doke, an old age pensioner, aged eighty-two, living in one room and unable to get out. See also following page and centre pages.

Reproduced by courtesy of the Editor of "The Guardian" and the photographer, Mr. Bob Collins.

EDITORIAL OFFICE · TOC H, 47 FRANCIS ST
LONDON SW1 · TELEPHONE VICTORIA 0354



'Assistance Needed'

THE PICTURES OF ELDERLY PEOPLE PRINTED IN this number are not pretty ones, but they provide a graphic reminder of the plight of many old persons living entirely on their own. With today's increased expectation of life it is estimated that there are now some seven million elderly people in Britain. While it can reasonably be assumed that at least half of them are self-supporting or able to help others, this still leaves something like three-and-a-half million requiring occasional or regular help. The extent and kinds of help needed may vary from total care in a hospital or residential home to the friendly call of a neighbour—with a wide range of services in between. Unfortunately ways of helping the elderly and the many services available to them are not widely enough known. Last month we were able to publish a letter drawing attention to the fine work being done throughout the land by Old People's Welfare Committees which act as co-ordinating bodies, linking together both statutory and voluntary organisations concerned with the welfare of elderly people. Knowledge about services and getting over to the elderly and the public generally information which will be of support and help when needs arise is an important part of the work undertaken by The National Old People's Welfare Council. Their latest Annual Report deals with the scope and extent of services for the elderly, plans for increasing them, and practical ways of maintaining or setting standards of care. Copies can be readily obtained (1s. 6d.) from the National Council of Social Service, 26 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1.

All Hallows in Pictures

A COLLECTION OF SOME FORTY OUTSTANDING photographs of All Hallows, with an accompanying text written by Padre John Durham, has provided the material for a new publication *The Pictorial Story of All Hallows-by-the-Tower*. This will appear in the "Pride of Britain" series of books, published by Pitkin Pictorials Ltd. Publication is promised for Easter when it will be on sale at All Hallows at 2s. 6d. Out-of-town members can secure a copy by sending a postal order for 3s. 3d. addressed to All Hallows at 41 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.

Passion Play

"NOT AS TOURISTS, BUT AS PILGRIMS, DID WE set out." So wrote 'Barkis' after the first Pilgrimage in 1922. Since then Toc H parties have had the moving experience of witnessing the Passion Play when it was performed in 1930, '34 and '50. This year we are told that public demand is such that "already over one million applications for tickets have been returned". Places are assured for the three Toc H parties leaving London on May 28 and 29 for the Old House, Bavaria and the Tyrol, and returning a fortnight later. There are some vacancies still to be filled by men. It will be a shame if by asking too late any Toc H member misses a chance that will not occur again for ten years.

Crooked Cross Again

FIFTEEN YEARS AFTER THE COLLAPSE OF THE Nazi régime the evil symbol of the swastika has reappeared in Germany daubed on walls and on tombstones in Jewish cemeteries. Similar happenings are reported from France, the Scandinavian countries, the United States and the Channel Islands. Here in Britain a number of widespread acts have also occurred. Deep concern is expressed in a statement from the joint presidents of the Council of Christians and Jews, who are the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland (Dr. R. H. W. Shepherd), the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council (The Rev. W. Russell Shearer), and the Chief Rabbi (Dr. Brodie). They believe such activities to be the work of small groups of embittered extremists whose importance it would be foolish to exaggerate, but experience has shown that prejudices may be all too easily aroused and exploited. They ask that all Christians should openly express sympathy with Jews, that influence should be exerted against any extension of the outbreaks and that all should apply themselves to uprooting the widespread prejudices which provide fertile soil for extremist agitators of all kinds.

Death on our Roads

MORE THAN TWENTY PEOPLE A DAY WERE killed on Britain's roads in November. The totals of 625 dead and 26,439 injured pushed road casualties above 300,000 in a single year for the first time. Two-thirds of those killed were sixty years of age or over and half the children on foot were between five and nine years old. A railway accident rarely involves many deaths but automatically becomes 'front page news' and excites our sympathy and compassion, but how long can we continue to regard these terrible figures with equanimity? Credit goes to at least one Toc H Branch, in S.E. London, which has doggedly persisted in efforts towards getting its recommendations for greater road safety adopted by the authorities.

'My Old Dutch'

P. B. CLAYTON

IT WAS upon a night of sleet and rain, and gales of wind striking the narrow streets, back in the 'Naughty Nineties', that Albert Chevalier left his famous stage and went into his mean dressing-room to change out of his Cockney dress with pearly buttons into his normal clothes and overcoat. Then a horse-cab was called, and he got in. The cab's door was slammed to. He found its floor was strewn with straw to keep him from cold feet. He told the weary driver where to go.

The driver was himself a fine old Cockney, who flicked his horse more by way of friendship than to promote the speed of conveyance. The cab then crawled towards the destination and finally drew up outside the door. Chevalier got out and paid the fare, with something extra to reward the driver, who stretched his hand down to receive the coins. The best loved public singer then in Britain said to the Cabby: "Won't you be my guest? You have brought me home. Please come and drink my health, and I will drink yours, before we both turn in."

Then from the driver's seat came this reply: "I thank you kindly for suggesting it, but the old mare has been out a long time, she is a pal of mine and wants her feed and a dry down. It's a fair thing to ask, since she is a good 'un, though she is old and worn. Besides the horse, I'd like myself to get straight home to my old Duchess, if you please. She's been my Duchess now for forty years, through thick and thin. She's a good wife to me. Between ourselves, Sir, let me tell you straight, there ain't no lady in this bloomin' land that I would like to swap for my old Dutch." And thus the two men parted.

The great artist, who specialised in singing Cockney songs, found that these words brought music to his mind. It was his rule to keep a slab of paper, together with a pencil, by his bed, for he himself composed these Cockney ballads. He awoke that night and lit a bedside candle and wrote down what he had heard. The following day he found that it was

written in rough rhyme, and formed the chorus no one could forget.

From that time onwards, though the world has changed almost beyond belief in eighty years, the song the Cabby put into his mind became immortal on the British stage. It has been often said concerning it that by this single song above all others, Albert Chevalier lives on even now. More wholesome virtue, cheerful married life, richer or poorer as the case may be, has sprung from this one song in Cockney homes than from all the concerts held in Britain.

Darby & Joan Parties

ALISON MACFIE

Here the Founder Pilot of Toc H Women's Association carries Tubby's tale further, by telling how Darby & Joan parties started and of their happy continuance

THERE WAS A TIME in the nineteen-twenties when Tubby became concerned about the strange disappearances of Toc H members from Branch meetings and the constant need to replace Warden after Warden at the Marks.

The reason lay, of course, inside the little boxes of wedding cake which were continually arriving in the Porch Room post; and the invitations to perform subsequently the rite of Baptism merely underlined the difficulties of the situation. Something had to be done to keep these people in Toc H, and a Sunday afternoon party for *all* was considered.

The forerunner was a teaparty held in June, 1926, in the big club room at New June, this being the only room of any size belonging to Toc H anywhere near All Hallows. The regular series of Darby & Joan parties did not, however, set in till Tubby went to live at 42 Trinity Square, where there was space and to spare.

The idea was (and still is) that the young couples come, bringing the children (if any) with them, and all have tea together. After tea the children are sent off in the care (in the old days) of the Tottenham Torturers—a team of men and women from the Tottenham Branches—or, present-day

style, of the residents at '42.' They go off readily and gleefully. The old Skittle Alley provided much fun mixed with not a little dust; and the Roman Wall Room performs the same function, with less damage to clothes, in an atmosphere of historical adventure. Nowadays, with the advent of T.V., boys and girls seem to prefer to sit and look and listen.

Upstairs the adults, meanwhile, also have an edifying time, being talked to "for their good" by all sorts of distinguished guests and by Darbies & Joans from among their own number.

No one will ever forget the Sunday when the Bishop and Mrs. Talbot (the parents of Ted, Neville and Gilbert) came to grace the scene. They were set down in state on a low platform, one each side of a small tea-table, and carried on a brisk conversation in a loud tone of voice, both of them being completely deaf!

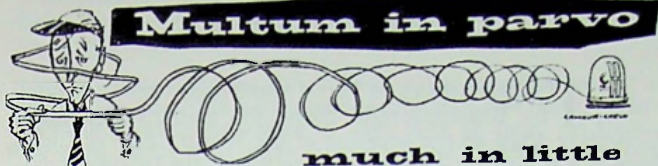
Many others came and gave of the good things in their experience to the Darbies & Joans; and on a summer Sunday there might be a trip down-river to Greenwich, and always at St. Nicholas-time a children's party. Toc H travellers, too, to many parts of the world, brought back 'Travellers Tales' of their journeys; to be followed many years later by modern tales related by their children or even grandchildren. For some of the original Darbies & Joans still come, even after thirty years!

After family prayers the children are reunited with their parents and many families go over to church for Evensong.

So were these young homes kept within the orbit of Toc H, and so were made many helpful friendships, building up the "more wholesome virtue, cheerful married life" of Albert Chevalier's song and Tubby's commentary.

* * *

Should any readers wish to join these quarterly Darby & Joan parties, they should write to the secretary, Bill Pettifer, c/o All Hallows Porch Room, who, with his wife, has just taken over and provides a link with early days. His first appearance at a Toc H party was when he and his brother Arthur went with 'The Gen' to the one at Grosvenor House in December, 1922. The two boys were reputed to have been buried, sleepily oblivious, under a huge pile of coats and hats in the vestibule, while waiting the time to go home—and to have survived!



❖ **NEW YEAR HONOURS:** Our congratulations on being made C.B.E. to the Rev. K. C. OLIVER, R.A.C.D. (for services in Singapore), to R. E. GOODWIN, Alderman, Bermondsey Borough Council, and General Secretary of the National Association of Boys' Clubs, and to Dr. J. L. ROSSITER, Chairman, Adult Education Board, Western Australia, and lately President of Toc H there; also to JOHN GOSS, Principal, H.M. Dockyard Technical College, Portsmouth, and member of the Central Executive, on being made O.B.E.

❖ Professor SAMUEL MATHAI is to succeed RAJAIAH D. PAUL as Hon. Commissioner of Toc H in India next April.

❖ W. BRIAN JENKINS, who left Wycliffe College last term, is working at the Toc H Centre in Bristol until he goes to Cambridge University in October.

❖ **The NEW MARK III:** Help to build it at the Scala Theatre, London, 'Grab me a Gondola', on February 16.

❖ **COUNCILLORS** should receive and forward nominations of candidates for the new Central Executive by February 29; also any notices of motion to be considered at the annual meeting of the Central Council.

❖ **OBERAMMERGAU, 1960:** A few places are available for men wishing to join the Toc H parties leaving London on May 28 and 29 for a fortnight, visiting Poperinge, Bavaria and the Tyrol, and witnessing the Passion Play. Enquire O.P.P.P., 47 Francis St., S.W.1.

❖ **'FOCUS ON Toc H':** Enter those photographs that portray any aspect of Toc H, by March 7. Everybody with a camera can help to build up the Toc H Picture Library.

❖ **GENERAL MEMBERS:** Some contribute to the Family Purse under deed of covenant or by banker's order. Others are asked to accept this reminder that membership subscriptions are due.

❖ **DISTRICT TEAMS:** Branches select their two members this month for the new year of office.

❖ **BRANCH MEMBERS** who have renewed their membership for 1960 should see they receive their membership cards.

❖ **BRANCH MEMBERS' ROLLS** are wanted urgently from those Secretaries who forgot to post them by January 15.

❖ **"REGARDING JOBS"** are also now overdue from some Branch Jobmasters.

Birthday Vigils

THE BIRTHDAYS OF TOC H AND TUBBY were celebrated by Branches right round the map maintaining a Voluntary Vigil on the occasion of the World Chain of Light, from 9 p.m. Friday, December 11 to 9 p.m. the following day. While it is not possible to present anything like a full picture, it is clear from the following brief extracts, from reports that have since reached us, that vigils were well and truly maintained throughout the twenty-four hours in very many places.

A full twenty-four hours' Vigil was maintained at seven places in Southern Area, at *Christchurch, Portsmouth, Poole, Wimborne, Waterlooville, Newport, I.O.W.* and in the little Chapel at the top of *Talbot House Searfaring Boys' Club, Southampton*.

Men's Branches covered the period 9 p.m.—9 a.m. and W.A. members took over the remaining twelve hours of the Vigil held at *St. John's Parish Church, Cardiff*. A patrolling policeman on coming into the church at 3.30 a.m. said "I knew it was all right when I saw the Lamp burning".

The quiet of the countryside at the village church of *Hilperton* where *Trowbridge* members kept their Vigil, was in marked contrast to the outside bustle at *Gloucester* and also at *Bristol*, where the Rev. Arthur Ringwood, who is blind, conducted a short service of meditation. The symbolism of a blind man leading members to Light was not lost on them. It was also noted here that some twelve members of the *University Toc H Circle* maintained the hours from midnight to 3 a.m.

The Vigil was held in *Derby, Nottingham* and *Worksop*, in all three instances being shared jointly with members of the Women's Association.

From "Somewhere in the Pacific", Ken Gandy reported sharing in the Vigil from the fo'castle deck of *R.M.S. Rangitiki*, using the masthead light for Lamp.

Full twenty-four hours' Vigils were held in many places in Kent and Sussex, including *Eastbourne, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells* and the *Medway* and *West Sussex* Districts. In most cases the members were reinforced by W.A. members.

Three-quarters of the membership of *Riverside* District, together with one W.A. Branch, shared the Vigil held in a Community Centre. Comic relief was provided by a cleaner commencing work at 6 a.m. who shrieked on finding three strange men in possession.

Ron Anderson, in a letter to Rex Calkin, wrote "... in *South Africa* there will be at least eighteen Vigils, some of these are being run by individual units and others on a District basis."

In the Porch Room at *All Hallows*, never less than four at a time kept watch, forty were present at the start and finish. Most had made careful preparation for their hour of duty. At 1 a.m. they were joined by a party from *Tolworth* (Surrey Area) and Marksmen from the *Brothers' House* also took part.



The Upper Room in the Old House, Poperinge

Under the leadership of Cyril Cattell, eleven members whose ages ranged from 23 to 70, braved the Channel crossing and journeyed to Poperinge to keep Vigil in the *Old House* itself. Here they were reinforced by Rolande, Jeanne and Sylvain, and on Saturday Padre Brenton came over from Ypres to celebrate Holy Communion. All except two were visiting the Old House for the first time and one of them, on his return, quoted these lines:

"When I return to Poperinge I know what will be there.

A home, true love and friendship, a place where we can share
With men who fought in Flanders though we may forget the
blood

And strife—for us is set another task—to move the clinging mud
From our own lives that all men may find peace, fresh hope
and God."

While *Watford* District were keeping the Vigil in Bushey Congregational Church two weddings took place and the organist rehearsed music which was much appreciated by members keeping watch.

"The Vigil has left its mark on *Toc H London*" writes Mayne Elson. "It was carried out in full in at least a dozen places and it was heartening to see the relays of men (and not always the men one would expect to see!) and women faithfully maintaining an unbroken chain of prayer. Where a small chapel was available, as at *Whetstone* in All Saints' Church, at *Carshalton* in an Alms-house Chapel, or at *Croydon* in the Chapel of the Y.M.C.A., members were greatly helped by using 'a place where prayer is wont to be made'. The living silence of the chapels in *Mark VII* and *Mark XX* could not fail to reach the least sensitive. When Branch meeting-places were used, as at *Wimbledon*, *Richmond*, *Northolt*, *Bromley* and *Bexleyheath*, the surroundings permitted much more in the way of talk, the reading aloud of letters from overseas and the recollection of local needs. Both settings and both methods had their own particular values."

At *Horsell*, Surrey, a full Vigil was held at the Parish Church in conjunction with members of the W.A. Branch.

Between fifty and sixty members, including W.A. members, filled the chapel at *Brotherton House* for a Service of Preparation conducted by the District Padre. Those sharing in the Vigil included four Builders and fourteen members of the new *Brotherton House Toc H* group.

Fifteen members, a General Member, two W.A. members and the daughter of a member took part in the short Service, led by the Branch Pilot, which preceded *Otley Branch's* Vigil. A rota had been prepared and while some members stayed until midnight, others went home to return again for a night watch. Although the Branch was also committed to a football match collection for the Cheshire Home at *Spofforth* the Vigil was fully maintained. One member was on his own when his wife called with his dinner and together they said prayers, read the Bible passages and followed the hour's 'Theme'. On Saturday evening a member rushed in, with face and hands blackened with dirt from working on an emergency job, just in time to share in at least one hour's Vigil.

Vigil was kept by *Budleigh Salterton* Branch reinforced by *East Budleigh* group, a member from *Exmouth* and a local Builder at their meeting room, the "Watch House", once used as a coast-guard station. Other units in the Area keeping a full twenty-four hours' Vigil included *Ilminster*, *Newton Abbot*, *St. Budeaux* and *Saltash*.

Whether simply with the observance of 'Light' at the opening, of the Vigil, at a joint District gathering attendance at the first and last hours, or with the maintenance of the full twenty-four hours, every Branch in the *Lincolnshire Area* had its part.

Horncastle meeting in their room were joined by South Wold District members from *Coningsby*, *Woodhall Spa*, *Lincoln*, *Minster* group and *Revesby*.

Eight Branches, both women and men, were represented and forty-two people undertook watch-keeping in the Vigil kept by *Middlesbrough* Branch, while members of *Darlington* Branch also kept a twenty-four hours' Vigil.

A full Vigil was maintained by *Sheffield* District members in Hallam Branch room. At *Ossett*, after a well-attended preparatory Service, the Lamp remained lighted throughout the twenty-four hours and members visited the Branch rooms as and when possible. *Boroughbridge* Branch, led by their Padre, had periods of silent meditation, and *Keighley* shared a joint Service with W.A. members.

In East Yorks Area, the Area Padre 'did the rounds' starting off at *York* where the Vigil was preceded by the showing of an Italian film "The Life of Christ". Timing the journey so as not to miss any complete hour he arrived at *Malton* in time for the opening Service. On to *Bridlington* where a complete hour was spent and then to *Cottingham* where a night-watch was shared and thence to *Snaith* in time for the 3.0 a.m. shift. Back again in *York* he looked-in on the night watchmen there, returning later to take the last hour and closing service.

A twenty-four hours' Vigil was maintained in *Snaith* Parish Church by members of *Goole*, *Selby* and *Pollington* Branches and the Vigil was also kept at *Hull*.

In *Edinburgh*, men and women combined, the men taking the night watches and the women, including members from *South Queensferry*, doing their stint during the day. At *Alloa*, members met at 9 p.m. when the Branch Padre led them in meditation on "The Theme of the Vigil". From early on Saturday morning members came in as and when they could and at 8 p.m. the Branch met again for the final Vigil hour, shared with friends from the neighbouring Social Club.

In the Constable Division of East Anglia, *Clacton* and *Holland-on-Sea* Branches kept Vigil together with the two W.A. Branches and members from *Brightlingsea*.

Smallness of numbers prevented *Penrith* members from tackling the full twenty-four hours' Vigil, but they succeeded in keeping half of it, from 9 p.m.—12 p.m. on Friday and 12 noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday.

In the Marches Division the watchers were divided into six sections, each of four hours, taken in turn by *Leominster, Hereford, Presteigne, Knighton, Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells* Branches.

The *Crewe* District commenced with a combined meeting at Willaston Branch room. At midnight *Shavington* members took over until 6 a.m. *Nantwich* members then carried on until 6 p.m. when the *Holmes Chapel* and *Audlem* Branches took turns until completion at 9 p.m.

The next round-the-world Vigil has been planned for 1965, but the World Chain of Light will continue to take place every year on December 11 and 12. Meantime, Tubby has written:

"I am one of many who believe that the World Chain of Light should be in future regarded as the climax of our aims, eagerly shared by many unknown friends and thankfully maintained through night and day. We must enlarge our aims and aspirations, and we must pray that God will bless our hopes, banish our fears, blot out our disappointments, and pardon the mistakes we have made. The little faithful units of Toc H can thus receive a vision of renewal and a wide horizon of our true friends, eager to find among our faithful few a living core of Christian fellowship."

My First Vigil

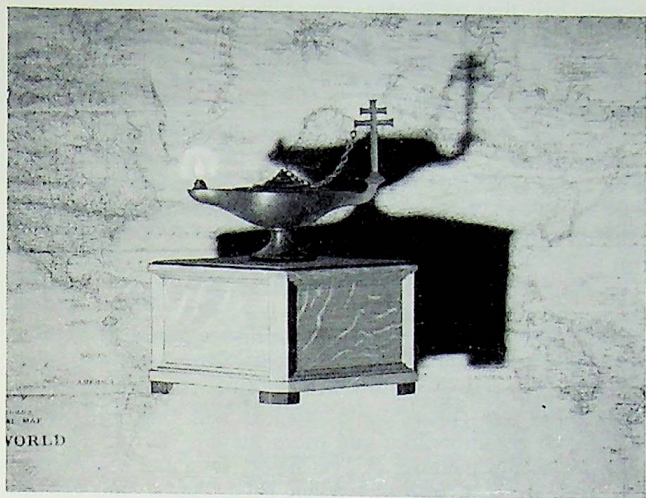
RODNEY FANTHORPE

This account of keeping the Vigil comes from a sixteen-year-old member of Worksop Branch

IT WAS A curious coincidence that it should happen that Saturday night in December. The night was foggy, damp and miserable. The minister was on his way to Hull but had got lost in Worksop. Eventually he saw a bright light casting a warm and inviting glow in the fog—coming closer he made out the grey solid shape of a church and lost no time in finding his way to a side door which happened to be open. The door was open because Toc H Worksop members were assembling to hold the closing service of the Vigil of 1959. The visitor decided after the service not to make for his destination and one of our members offered to put him up.

So it was that a grateful minister found a warm bed and a friendly welcome and so it was that a certain passage in the service meant something more to us that night. We had indeed let our light shine before men.

But that was the end of the Vigil, let us go back. It was morning now—past six o'clock on a cold wintry morning. Imagine the scene: outside it was still dark, the streets lay silent and deserted. Inside the small room peace reigned.



There was the Lamp standing on its box the flame swaying gently, casting its yellow light over the books arranged on the table. The glow was reflected in the gloss of the world map covering one wall. Sitting beside me, his head in a large book, was Reg, my companion for the hour.

We liked that map. We were better able to project our thoughts, our reading and our talking. At least we had a better idea where the places were that we were thinking about. It must mean a great deal to people working in the home and overseas mission fields to know that they are being thought and prayed about. Home and family life and hospitality were suggested as food for thought, and they are among the ideals of Toc H. We tried to think about them.

There was a quotation included in the "Birthday Vigil" notes: "Home—the place where we are sure of one another Home, work, love, trust—these are four binding words."

I knew something about what Toc H was doing at home from the work in our own Branch. I looked at the map again and was immediately struck by the immense stretch of Canada—wild and empty. No, not quite empty, apparently. Recently I had heard of a minister who had made his home among the snowy wastes of the northern regions. His parish covered an area half that of England and his parishioners were reindeer and Eskimos. I thought about the man: how came he to realise that it was here that his work lay? That quotation seemed to apply here—"work". He must indeed be a devoted worker to keep going.

I followed the map down to Brazil and Chile. How about South America? Yes. Toc H seemed to have found its way there too. Trying to project one's thoughts eight thousand miles is no easy task, especially if at the end of that journey one is rewarded with wild steamy jungle and primitive people. The quotation rang again—"Love".

Leaving South America, I tracked the shipping routes across the ocean to the sand and humidity of Africa. My imagination led me into some fly-ridden thatched hut or a small hospital in some remote village. There was a sign on the lintel—Toc H was there too. "Trust" was needed here.

My mind went blank for a moment and I became aware of my own commonplace and more humble surroundings. I have not been a member of Toc H very long and this was my first experience of a vigil. When I first came into contact with Toc H, I thought that it was just another of those weird and wonderful organisations, I must admit. But I do not feel that now. I do not profess to know what makes a man devote his life to the humble service of his fellows, but I do know that I am being made aware of some of the answers through Toc H. As far as I can see, it is a thing that one cannot learn from others entirely, but it has to be experienced for one's self. Toc H has something to offer, both through its everyday work and through such an experience as the Vigil.

To a young member, it may seem tiresome to sit for an hour praying, but when one comes to consider, this statement is true: that it is good to sit in silence, to forget yourself for a while and to think of comrades in Toc H throughout the world.

Speech Restored

R. W. NORMAN

At a recent meeting of Oxford (Joint) District Team, a Speech Therapist was invited to tell something of the difficulties encountered by patients who have had their larynxes removed and are oesophagus speakers. Here, one of those patients tells how they can be helped to overcome great obstacles.

HAVE you ever met or heard of any people who have had an operation known as a Laryngectomy? This operation leaves them virtually without voice, as the vocal cords are removed and they are left without the normal methods of voice production.

It is possible for them to receive special training in applying a technique whereby air from the oesophagus is forced out through the mouth and speech produced. This is called Oesophageal Speech. A surprising number have, by this means, learned to speak again and are back at work and able to live normal lives.

Unfortunately there is a percentage who, because of psychological reasons or difficulties in breathing—particularly older people—find great difficulty in learning to speak again. Some, in fact, never do succeed and are destined to spend the rest of their lives in silence. Some do not even have the opportunity to try to talk with other people, because as they become older their horizon tends to shrink and they become increasingly confined to the home. Often this side of life is known only to the doctors, speech therapists, those who have been operated upon, and their relations.

They develop a feeling of loneliness, which brings depression and they lose confidence in themselves. It is difficult enough at home, but even more so with acquaintances and strangers. This leads them to seek solitude rather than the company of others, and to avoid contact with people outside the family. For this to happen is a real tragedy.

The remedy is for them to attend a Hospital Speech Clinic where wonderful understanding, kindness and patience are shown, and every encouragement given to get the patients to persevere. The slow ones should never give up trying—in the writer's case it was four years before speech came.

Help can often be given by visitors, who can do much to combat loneliness and to encourage patients to persevere and generally to boost their morale.

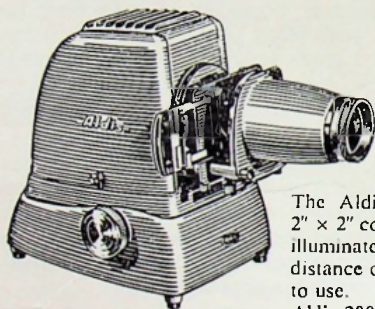
In the Oxford Region there are Speech Clinics at the Churchill Hospital, Headington, Oxford, Swindon, Stoke Mandeville, High Wycombe and Cirencester. Patients are scattered all over the area and transport is a difficulty.

Authorities at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, arranged a "Get-together party" of patients early in the year to see a film on speech by Laryngectomised people, and tea was served afterwards. It was a wonderful and inspiring experience to see how bright the patients were, due to the fact that there was a spirit of fellowship among them all.

It is hoped to continue such gatherings in the future, to be held twice a year, perhaps in the spring and autumn, if arrangements could be made for private transport to bring patients into Oxford and return them to their homes after tea.

If the writer has stimulated even a few readers and gained sympathy for those who are afflicted, he will have achieved some measure of success.

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Old and alone



Old age knows no compensation: to many it brings, with advancing infirmity, loneliness, poverty and unwillful squalor. Too often, not always because of a lack of service but because the authorities do not know, assistance is too slight and too late; this is a problem urgently in need of solution. The pictures show some of those in London who exist at the margin of subsistence: to them the winter months can be the worst time of the year. These circumstances are typical. Cover pic-



ture : Mr. Doke (82), pension—one room, unable to get out. Previous page : Mrs. Jeskens (76), pension with rent paid by National Assistance—one room and small kitchen. Left-hand page : Miss Nichols (77), pension—one room. Above : Mr. Kreindler, (81), Polish, resident in England 64 years, wife in hospital—pension, two rooms (one uninhabitable). Overleaf Mr. Peachey (87), pension, two dilapidated rooms—cooks for blind woman of 87 who occupies rooms in same building.



Photographs by Mr. BOB COLLINS

Reproduced by courtesy of the Editor, The Guardian



18

MEN FOR THE JOB

THE KIND OF JOBS Branches do, and the value of their service, are so vital that a survey has recently been made. Jobmasters have been making returns 'Regarding Jobs' and supplying information which will become much more important as a whole than a set of figures. The conclusions to be drawn from the figures and from the Jobmasters' comments are being considered by Guards of the Lamp. They will be given to the Central Council and made available to those enquiring further this year about the Keynote Projects.

Many Branches have gained from these Projects a clear sense of the direction their service should take. Other Branches have found a real difficulty in selecting their two Keymen with the time and ability to take on a fresh job. Now they are asked to choose their two men who are most concerned about these matters, and give them the chance of learning more about jobmastery.

For these men and for any who have been selected as Branch Keymen, conferences will be held this year at weekends as below. The timing will run from Friday evening for those who can manage it and from early Saturday afternoon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

March	18-20	The Gean House, Alloa, Scotland.
April	2-3	Plas-y-Coed, Colwyn Bay, North Wales.
May	7-8	The Pleasaunce, Overstrand, Norfolk.
July	8-10	Gilbertson Hall, Swansea, South Wales.
Octr.	7-9	Philipps House, Dinton, Wilts.

(The conference booked to be held in April near Grantham, Lincs., will not now take place.)

There will also be the conference for Branch Keymen on—
May 13-15 Mamhead Park, near Exeter, Devon.

The names and addresses of all the men concerned, specifying the place preferred, should be sent in the first instance to their own Area Secretary or H.A.C.

Middle-aged Spread

BRYAN PODMORE

WHAT is this thing called a Toc H Mark? Is it a run-of-the-mill men's hostel or is it a place where men, young and old, from all walks of life, can share the experience of living together in 'love and joy and peace'? Further, can or do these Marks play an important part in the future of Toc H?

First let the obvious fact be stated that the Movement needs young people if it is to carry on thriving as it ought. There they are, hundreds of them, flowing through our Marks in London and the Provinces, staying for shorter or longer periods, 'young bloods' who ask little from the Mark in the first place but lodgings. What should Toc H ask of them? This at least: that they should take a lively interest in what the Mark is striving to do as its bit for a live Movement. Toc H can so easily put the electricity into these potential 'live-wires'.

Now there's nothing new to Toc H in these Marks (apart from the 'inmates'). The really important difference between a Mark and a Branch lies in the youth and initial disinterestedness of the Marksmen and in the fact that they are living together all the week ("who's borrowed my hair-cream . . .?" "who left this rat's tail in my bed?") instead of meeting once or twice weekly. Can we utilise these peculiarities of the Marks. Yea, verily, yea! But only if those in each Mark already committed to Toc H and these 'outside' members or 'outmates' (meaning the whole Movement) can put across the challenge and the dynamic of Toc H to each newcomer.

In this, well-tryed methods will not fail us, even in 1960. I am convinced that the most fruitful approach is still Tubby's two-pronged attack: "To Challenge and to Trust."

The atmosphere in a Mark, as in a Branch, should be such as to challenge the newcomer, the outsider shortly to become an insider, to ask "What makes this place tick?" (not referring to the Death Watch Beetle!) and then "Where do I fit in?" As I see it, one of the glories of Toc H has always been its flexibility, its ability to (a) welcome and (b) use trustingly the rawest recruit. Even so do our Marks and Branches work. It is a poor specimen who will not respond to this approach.

Our Keynotes rightly stress 'irresponsibility' as one great enemy we in Toc H have to fight against today. Whatever 'key topics' we follow up (and I for one have boundless hopes from these Keynotes) our Branches and Marks are dedicated to welcoming, challenging and trusting the stranger in our midst (whatever his nationality). In a Mark responsibility will grow first from the self-discipline needed to form part of the 'human zoo' (where the worst cause of crime must be lack of consideration for others). Then, the newcomer will be asked to share the specific responsibility of some service within the Mark, be it never so humble, or in an outside job, preferably corporate so that he doesn't feel 'out on a limb'.

What more is needed for the Marks (given a good team to run them) to function fully within Toc H? Aye, there's the rub. They do need to know that they have the whole-hearted backing of the rest of the Movement in their unique job. Why so? Can't we leave them to get on with it? For me the answer is No, because unless the Toc H members inside the Marks (often, of necessity, very few) can bring home to the other Marksmen that the Mark is a fully active part of Toc H, then allegiance can only be to their individual Mark and the viewpoint becomes very parochial. Nor must the impression be given that "Ah, well, yes, Toc H in England did start in the Marks but that was in the good old days and now the only life is in the Branches". By this means the Marks become poor relations of the Movement and obviously feel unwanted (a word that should be taboo in Toc H). To me these are real dangers.

Don't let's kid ourselves that a Mark is or should be just like any old hostel. Without undue harking back to the good old days, we can proudly point to the Marks' abiding contribution to Toc H (and far beyond) in the past. Would a mere hostel have won such a heart-warming tribute as that from our Nigerian friend, Felix Osifo, in a fairly recent JOURNAL?

Surely then today's Marks are well able to carry on the good work?

For me life in a Mark was a unique, exciting and most rewarding experience. It is for most, and many men remember with gratitude their stay in one and the shaping it has given to their lives, the new friends and interests and enthusiasms they have found there.

These thoughts prompt a few questions that we might consider. Do we take a sufficient interest in the Mark in our Area? If there isn't a Mark nearby, do we welcome the possibility of contact with a Mark or Marksmen? Can we learn or teach anything (about jobs and Branch meetings) from discovering what young Marksmen take part in already? Are our own jobs and meetings designed and geared mainly for middle-aged interests and competence? Could we lay on an interesting, challenging job if a young chap from the Marks (or elsewhere) sailed into our merry midst? Do Toc H members always make a point of sending their sons and their sons' friends to live in a Mark when the opportunity arises? (This can be of great value). Is there room in the JOURNAL for a Marks bulletin? Do we realise and care what 'happy hunting grounds' for Toc H members the Marks are?

One article cannot capture anything of the abundance of life in a Mark. Let us do our level best to ensure that this young life and energy is harnessed for Toc H in its 'brave building' (modern and undetached but highly desirable!). The Marks have great potentialities for the Movement far beyond those suggested here. Let us see to it, by our vital, constructive support and interest that they remain places of refreshment, 'recreation' and recruiting for a Movement that moves with the times.

Or do we only seek a 'middle-aged spread' for Toc H, as 'spread ourselves' we must and ought?

'Focus on Toc H'

Remember to send in your entry for the Photographic Competition open to all Readers.

Closing Date, March 7

For details and Entry Form see last month's JOURNAL



FAR CRY

overseas notes

GEOFF MARTIN

FROM ZARIA

SHORTLY after the Toc H rugger team was revived last year one of the backbone of the team, BILL RICHMOND of Mark VII, was suddenly wafted away to Zaria, Northern Nigeria. His first reactions, like those of a newcomer to any country, are interesting because they are fresh. Writing in November he described the "shattering experience" of his arrival in Kano Airport and station, and then went on:—

The train chugged out of Kano and was soon at top speed a little over 30 m.p.h. I had lunch on the train, my first meal in Africa, and it was far better than I had anticipated. The service was excellent and I only happened by chance to glance in the direction of the kitchen and one of the waiters came over and asked what I required. These people are working a great deal harder than they would be if they were working at the same job in England but there is no mistaking who is the happier. I have never seen so many people enjoying their normal daily lives and I do sincerely believe we have something to learn from the African as he has from us. Walk down the main street of Zaria Township and the majority of people will greet you with a 'good morning' or some other form of salutation. . . .

I went out to a tiny village in the bush and with an interpreter spent a couple of hours talking to villagers. These people informed us that they were not really interested in Atomic Bombs for they hardly know what one is, but that they want to carry on living in much the same way as they are at the moment, not asking much of life but to live in their humble way a joyous life free from troubles and without cares which we in England yearn for. We were welcomed to the village and not quite treated as heroes. We laughed and joked with them and for a couple of hours most of the village life ceased as everyone gathered round to talk to us. There is certainly no colour bar up here in Zaria. It is the African's country and he could if need be set up a colour bar, but no, we are welcomed and asked to share and help in their daily lives.

To come back to a more personal experience, I did not think that I was prejudiced against coloured people but since arriving out here I realised I would never have treated them as kindly as I do now had I been in England. In the beginning it was a case of 'working

with coloured people'. Then one morning after about five weeks out here, it suddenly struck me that I did not consider them coloured any more—they had become fellow workers. In fact I had to think that they were coloured. It was not until then that all prejudice for coloured people was swept out of my mind and now I would do as much for them as I would do for anyone else.

Let us during this coming year and particularly at the time of the Vigil pray and pledge ourselves to strive for complete unity and harmony not only between countries but between races as well.

FROM COLOMBO

In its day Colombo Branch was one of the strongest units in the East. With the passing of time and the transfer of many of its leading personalities the fortunes of this geographically important Branch waned considerably. For this reason alone it is good to have news of them from one of their members, Dr. FRANK BARTHOLOMEUSZ, who conducts the overseas correspondence of the Branch.

We could not arrange for a 24-hour Vigil on the 11th, but we met at a Holy Communion Service at St. Andrew's Church at 7.30 a.m. followed by a Breakfast at Galle Face Hotel, and on the evening on the same day at 6.30 we had our Festival Service also at St. Andrew's Scots Kirk, at which many of our friends and visitors were present. After the service all went over to St. Andrew's Parish Hall. . . . The Ceremony of Light was taken at 9.0 p.m. when the Overseas Secretary read two messages he had received from the Chairman of Goole Branch in Yorkshire, and the Secretary of the Madura Branch in India, and their kind thought of us was deeply appreciated. . . . On Friday, 18th instant, we invited over 150 boys of our three clubs to a Christmas party. The venue this year, was our Toc H Club at Christ Church, Galle Face.

FROM WANGANUI

Some months ago JOHN LATHAM, a young master at the Collegiate Secondary School, Wanganui, New Zealand, took it upon himself to introduce the whole school to the idea of voluntary service. He did this at Assembly and of over 600 boys present about 130 stayed behind to hear more. John has now written to Peter Vere-Jones in Southampton, commenting on the outcome and the following is an extract from his letter.

I, too, was amazed at the response of the boys and that it has gone on. Too often, this terrific effort lasts only a short time and then fades out completely. Of course, there has been a reduction in the numbers of boys going out on Toc H work, but we have had enough to do the work and do it well. We have, now, over fifty names of families on our lists though many of them are people who

don't need help at the moment but have had, or will have, something for us to do.

I might mention two things which have pleased me very much lately. The first is that several boys took on the job of removing a huge boxthorn hedge from an old widow's place. They took this on entirely off their own bat, and you can guess how much work was required.

The other thing is what I consider the ideal extension of Toc H in the school. Five or six senior boys have more or less adopted an old woman who has been sick, though not bed-ridden, for some considerable time. Besides mowing her lawns, making her a new gate-post and gate with a bright letter-box, putting washers on leaking taps and many other jobs, they go down there, one or two, two or three times a week and have afternoon tea with her and she really loves it (and them).

The district nurse tells me that she is always talking about the boys and, more important, that her health and outlook are a thousand times better. She used to be always 'down in the dumps' and complaining about life, but now she knows someone is interested in her and she has taken a new lease of life. And this has been done entirely by the boys—they even wrote letters to her after they went home for the last holidays.

Well, you'll be seeing these boys for yourselves soon and I think, with a bit of pushing, they'll turn out extremely good workers for Toc H in New Zealand as a whole.

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'With proud thanksgiving . . .'

ATTWOOD.—In December, WILLIAM GEORGE ATTWOOD, aged 62, a member of Packington Branch. Elected 30.5.'51.

AVELING.—On December 22, CHARLES AVELING, C.B.E., aged 86, a member of Southport Branch. Elected 26.3.'26.

CHRIMES.—On December 19, the Rev. WALTER CLARENCE CHRIMES, aged 74, 'the chain-maker's Padre' and a member of Codsall No. 2 Branch. Elected 4.10.'27.

COLLINGRIDGE.—On November 30, LEONARD STEPHEN COLLINGRIDGE, aged 69, a member of Harpenden Branch. Elected 28.8.'41.

DOUGLAS.—On December 23, WILLIAM DOUGLAS, aged 82, a member of Cromer Branch. Elected 8.3.'40.

GIBSON.—On November 21, THOMAS GIBSON, aged 39, a member of Wednesfield Branch. Elected 21.1.'47.

GODDARD.—On December 14, JOHN GODDARD, aged 57, a member of Prestatyn Branch. Elected 1.1.'46.

GREEN.—On December 16, THOMAS GREEN, aged 57, a member of Edgware Branch. Elected 9.3.'38.

HALIFAX.—On December 23, THE EARL OF HALIFAX, K.G., P.C., O.M., aged 78, a President of Toc H since 1937. (Elected a member in the Simla-Delhi group in India, 1929.)

KEMP.—On October 6, CHARLES F. PERCY KEMP, aged 84, a member of Bingley Branch. Elected 15.10.'58.

LOAT.—On November 27, ARTHUR VICTOR LOAT, aged 62, a member of Edghaston Branch. Elected 12.6.'50.

MARSHALL.—On September 18, LEONARD MARSHALL, aged 68, a member of Rayleigh Branch. Elected 1.11.'37.

PERKINS.—On December 5, REGINALD PROVOST PERKINS, aged 78, a member of Prestatyn Branch. Elected 7.4.'42.

PRESTON.—On December 10, HERBERT PRESTON, aged 81, a founder member of Keighley Branch. Elected 1.12.'27.

RECORD.—On December 26, the Rev. STANLEY PAMPHILON RECORD, aged 76, a member of Winscombe Branch. Elected 19.2.'46.

SCARGILL.—On November 27, HERBERT MOXON SCARGILL, aged 56, a member of Crawley Branch. Elected 22.5.'52.

SPENDLOVE.—On December 21, FRANCIS JOHN SPENDLOVE, aged 70, a member of Crowborough Branch. Elected 1.11.'56.

STRONG.—On October 13, at Antwerp, the Rev. CHARLES STRONG, M.B.E., aged 57, Chaplain, Missions to Seamen. Elected 17.12.'34.

TOWNSHEND.—In December, AUBREY TOWNSHEND, M.B.E. ('Pop'), formerly of Florence Boys' Club, Liverpool, and lately Warden of the John Benn Hostel, Stepney, and King George's House, Stockwell. Elected 1.1.'29.

WIGHTMAN.—Suddenly, on December 29, JAMES INGLIS WIGHTMAN, aged 37, a member of Selkirk Branch and Hon. Correspondent South-Eastern Division, Scotland. Elected 13.4.'55.



Going Places, 1960

PARTIES TO POPERINGE, BELGIUM AND HOLLAND

For details of any of these party arrangements and cost, please write direct to the person whose name and address is given below.

- April 14-19 ... Easter week-end. Mixed party led by Miss ELSA PERRIN. Enquiries to LESLIE GOSDEN, Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.
- May 13-16 ... Mixed party for younger members led by RAY FABES and BRIAN KINGSLEY-DAVIES. Enquiries to Brian Kingsley-Davies, 42 Trinity Square, London, E.C.3.
- June 4-7 ... Whitsun party for Marksmen. Enquiries to J. H. CLARK, Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.
- June 13-20 ... Overseas members. Enquiries to the *Overseas Secretary*, Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.
- June 25-July 2 ... Mixed party, based on Bruges ; tours to Brussels and Antwerp and two days at the Old House. Write to F. G. CHESWORTH, Editorial Office, Toc H H.Q., 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.
- July 17-24 ... Mixed party, including two days in the Ardennes. Enquiries to MRS. LOUIE CARTER, 109 Chester Avenue, Luton, Bedfordshire.
- August 9-13 ... WINANT VOLUNTEERS.
- August 13-27 ... Mixed party, week's visit to Holland, followed by optional week in Belgium, five days in Bruges and two days at the Old House. Details from F. G. CHESWORTH, Editorial Office, Toc H Headquarters, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.
- August 27-September 3 ... Hereford Branch mixed party. Others welcomed if there is room. Enquiries to RALPH SANDERS, 10 St. Paul Road, Tupsley, Hereford.

From all parts direct from areas



KENT.—S.E. Kent District Rally at **Kennington** would more appropriately have been called a training session. Often we are timid in the use of this title, so it is all the more encouraging to record that this event was a great success. Having taken the first gulp, it is very likely that the 'dose' will be repeated, not only in that part of the Area but elsewhere also. Another equally enjoyable and worthwhile evening was the Dover District Guest Night—with guests—organised by **Whitfield & Guston**. **Ashford** and neighbouring Branches were busy before Christmas with the annual collection of food for aged and needy folk. In many places the Birthday Vigil was observed and five members from the Area went with me for the observance in the Upper Room of Talbot House, Poperinge. Christmas activities have included carolling, wood-chopping and distribution, toy-repairing and distribution, visits to invalid and housebound folk, 'taxi-service' to hospitals and other equally useful forms of service. Alec Churcher's visit to **Thanet** District was thoroughly appreciated. Our groups at **Blean**, **Hythe** and **Lyminge** continue to flourish.

CYRIL CATTELL.

WEST YORKSHIRE.—Members of **Northallerton** Branch made a refugee shack resembling a typical Chinese squatters hut in Hong Kong which was erected in the market place for the Christmas period. **Bingley** members collected and distributed toys, books and games to two Children's Homes in Bradford, Dr. Barnardo's Homes in Harrogate and Ripon, and another Home in Keighley. **Ripon** Branch celebrated their 30th Birthday with a re-dedication service in the Methodist church, followed by an informal gathering with George Lee as guest speaker. **Mirfield** Branch celebrated its 500th meeting with a dinner in the Vale Restaurant. Councillor E. H. Sheard, J.P., Chairman of Mirfield U.D.C., presided. Fred Brook, the Branch Pilot, welcomed the visitors. Rev. A. M. Davidson and Sidney Arnold replied on behalf of the guests. **Ossett** Branch sent eight members to the local Accident Prevention Committee, to discuss the institution of a Voluntary Wardens Scheme for promoting road safety in the Borough. **Keighley** members recorded popular carols and Christmas music and during the Christmas week played the records in the town centre and collected for World Refugee Year. Old People's Homes and St. John's Hospital received gifts and heard carols, and food parcels were distributed to old people living alone. Members of **Paddock** began the Vigil with Light in their own room on Friday, December 11 and joined with **Huddersfield** for the last hour on Saturday, December 12. The Vigil was held at **Brompton** on Friday night in the parish church where a service was conducted

by Padre Cooper. During Saturday members went to the church for prayers and meditation.

RON SMITH.

EASTERN LONDON.—A new group is being formed at **Billericay** and anyone interested in joining the group will be warmly welcomed at the Recreation Room on Fridays at 8 p.m. The Secretary is Charles R. Sanders, "South View", Kennel Lane, Billericay, Essex.

JIM GREEN.



Eastern Evening News

Members of Norwich Branch entertain at the Grove Hostel, Norwich

NORTH WALES.—The Vigil was kept on a District basis in three districts in the Division, and in one instance it was observed jointly with the Women's Association members who stood by the Lamp during the daytime hours while the men turned out at night. **Prestatyn** Branch recently moved happily into a new Branch room only to be stricken immediately by the sudden deaths of both the Secretary and the Treasurer, a heavy blow to any Branch. **Llandudno** recently saw the opening, free of debt, of the £10,000 Old People's Centre, the centre-piece of an estate being built by the local authority for old people. The Branch have been leading sponsors in this effort and raised considerable sums in its support. **Colwyn Bay** filled a truck and car, sent from the County Children's Department, with toys and seasonal fare for the children under care in the county. This annual appeal is much helped by toys collected at Children's Toy Services the Sunday before Christmas in all English Nonconformist Churches in the borough. **Mold** enjoyed a lively 26th Birthday party, the food being concocted, cooked and served to wives and guests by Branch members. 'Concocted' is used without reservation as Mold members are noted for their 'delicacies' and the grub is eagerly looked forward to and devoured at their parties.

GWILYM A. EDWARDS.

N. LONDON.—Toc H provided the Chairman for both sessions of a conference at **Potters Bar** attended by social workers, educationists and others to discuss the problem of urban life in the neighbourhood. It was decided to set up a group to make surveys and to discover the most acute problems. Yet another hospital has been added to the **Whittington** District Football Commentaries scheme which operates at the Arsenal Ground. This is University College Hospital with 700 beds, bringing the total number of beds connected up to 3,200. **Enfield** are hoping to start a Blind Club and have been raising money and local interest for the project. **Tottenham** have completed ten years of running the library service for patients in the T.B. wards at St. Ann's Hospital, and two members regularly help in a Club for Mentally Handicapped Children in Edmonton.

MAYNE ELSON.

WESTERN.—The Bristol Homoeopathic Hospital welcomed the arrival of a Durdham Down member acting as Santa Claus on Christmas morning. The 30/60 Club, an excellent job started by **Southville** Branch a couple of years ago, held a Christmas Eve party when it was obvious that Club members no longer suffered from any sense of loneliness. They now take their full part in much that happens in the local communities. Bristol Technical School had a "Going down" party at which those who were leaving school to enter into the world of industry met with some of their former school-mates. The Area Secretary spoke to the gathering and it is hoped that many of these young men will continue the service they have begun and will meet at the new Centre to discuss and discover more ways of giving a lie to much of the criticism made regarding our young people today. **Calne** Branch held a Christmas Sale at which the friendliness of the gathering was most noticeable. **Chippenham** Branch are doing excellent work at Greathouse, one of the Cheshire Homes, nearby. **Swindon** District are considering co-operating with the Round Table to put on a 'week', in which local people will be shown something of the work done by various social and charitable societies. **Chisledon** Branch are organising a Social in aid of the new Western Area Centre fund, which at present stands at around £30. **Cirencester** Branch would welcome keys to fit mechanical toys—if any Branch or members have any to spare will they please send them to the Secretary: Harold Barnes, 63, Purley Road, Cirencester, Glos. **Uphill** Branch will be the hosts of a meeting of Chairmen and Secretaries of Branches in the **West Mendip** District, and during February to the meeting of all Branch Officers. This tiny Branch is very keen and it is hoped that their enthusiasm will bring them in further new members. The Chairman of the **Vale of Avalon** District who had the bad luck to break some bones when his car crashed, has not severed his contact with the District. Team meetings and other special meetings arranged, will enjoy his hospitality and presence by going to him until he is able to get about again. **Walton** Branch recently gave everyone a pleasant surprise by producing nearly a dozen applications for membership. This was all the more surprising because Walton is a very small village.

JOHNNIE MACMILLAN.

'Focus on Toc H' Photographic Competition
Have you sent in your pictures?

SOUTH WESTERN.—Plymouth District is assisting in the establishment of the new **Cheshire Home** at **Cann House, Tamerton**. All Branches in the District are combining in the present task of completely re-decorating six rooms plus a bathroom. The Vigil was observed at several points in the Area, and all those taking part bear witness to the spiritual value gained. All who know him were thrilled and delighted when the subject of the Christmas Edition of the B.B.C. television feature *This Is Your Life* described as "Father Christmas all the year round", turned out to be **Len Stanmore**, Chairman of **Launceston Branch**.
GILBERT FRANCIS.



Northern Dispatch

At the opening of **Darlington Branch's** new headquarters: (l. to r.) **H. Weatherill** (Treasurer), **F. Close** (Johnmaster), **John Callif** (Toc H. Administrator), **R. H. Suggitt** (Chairman), **P. L. Cuhitt** (Pilot) and **W. Tralford** (Secretary)

S. AND S.E. LONDON.—The 'Lifebelt scheme' for elderly or disabled people living on their own is spreading in South London. Started by **New Addington**, the scheme is being launched in **Beckenham**, **West Wickham**, **Shirley** and **Penge**, and it is rumoured that **Croydon Branch** is soon to initiate the scheme in other parts of the County Borough. Congratulations to **Welling** and **Bexleyheath** on the recent **Coming of Age**—as one local newspaper put it: "21 years' service to the community". Nearly 100 guests were welcomed and entertained at **Bexleyheath**, while **Welling** were privileged by a visit from **Padre Herbert Leggate**, who challenged them to bring the "lions and tigers as well as the rabbits" into **Toc H.** **Balham** are in the news again, following the issue of a report on traffic conditions and road safety in the **Balham High Road**. The Branch has made a number of definite suggestions and has referred to the flagrant contempt of the law as the cause of excessive speed and the failure to observe parking regulations. **Warlingham** have raised £165 for **BELRA** by a house-to-house collection and donations. **Sidecup**, who launched an appeal for old spectacles for leper colonies overseas, have already dispatched some 2,000 pairs and have received news from **Africa** of the welcome awaiting such gifts. **Lee** has started a drive to help lonely people and has contacted other organisations in the area to ask for aid.
SAM EVANS.

SOUTH WALES.—When Roath Branch held their 8th annual Spastic Church Party at the Dewi Sant Church Hall on December 13, about forty children were entertained to tea, games, conjuring, community singing and Father Christmas. The cast of the Cinderella Pantomime from the New Theatre, Cardiff, were present in costume during the afternoon to help entertain the children.

PETER MOWLAM.



Lynn News and Advertiser

Hunstanton members with youngsters at the party given to St Christopher's Boy's Home

EAST ANGLIA.—There can have been few, if any, Branches not active during Christmas-tide. The number of Christmas parcels, tons of coal and sacks of wood for Old People, Christmas Parties and presents for young and old alike, visits to Hospitals and Homes to sing carols, and much else must be a formidable total, but they cannot out-weigh the goodwill they try to express. From **Hunstanton** Branch there is news of a very successful party for children from the St. Christopher's home. **Wymondham** Branch was busy visiting and singing carols at the hospitals at **Whitlingham**, **Pulham** and **Wicklewood**. **Saffron Walden** Branch was also busy delivering fuel to Old People; recording the local Parish Church Carol Service and playing it back to those who are house-bound, and to old people in Almshouses and in local Homes; and it was with the idea of working up a good appetite that some members took a party from the local Boys' Home for a cross-country hike of about fifteen miles, and was their journey really necessary? Earlier in the month a recording of a wedding at the Parish Church was made, the bride being the sister of a member of **Toc H**. The tape including messages from members of the family was sent to the brother in Singapore and later forwarded to another brother in Canada. **Cromer** Branch broke new ground to help the World Refugee Year Fund, setting out on two nights with an illuminated Christmas Tree on a lorry and toured the town singing carols.

REG SMITH.

SCOTLAND.—Dundee Branch now organise a 'live' entertainment Broadcast to Hospitals, in addition to their Football commentaries. The new venture has been very well received by the patients and has also the support of very many local people, who give freely of their time and talents to this excellent cause. Scotland rejoiced at the appointment of Alex Miller to the office of Honorary Vice-President of Toc H. This is a fitting recognition of the services of a member whose connection with the movement goes back to the early days in 'Pop'.
 'PURANA DHUAN'



County Express

'Woodchopping Night' at Altrincham Branch. Members prepare cartons of firewood for distribution to needy old people

SUSSEX.—As one reads the *Regarding Jobs* forms which have been received from Branches, it is apparent that a tremendous variety of service is being undertaken by our members. How encouraging it is—and how right—to note that the vast majority of work done is in every sense *personal* service. Although at present there is no Branch in **East Grinstead** a willing and able team of ex-members and new friends formed a working team to collect, repair and distribute toys to needy families in the locality and also to the Save the Children Fund for refugee children. A further job undertaken by them was the decoration of wards at the Queen Victoria Hospital at Christmas. Training sessions have been held in all Districts in recent months, and more are being planned. The exchange of ideas and problems on these occasions provide the opportunity for all to learn together. The **Sussex Area** Team continue to visit District Team meetings and their visits are always welcomed. They have been responsible for setting the ball rolling for extension in **Crawley New Town**. It is hoped that we shall one day see Branches not only in the centre of the old town but also in the new Neighbourhoods. The Birthday Vigil was observed in many places. Members from **Bognor Regis** and **Rustington** were in the party which took part in the Vigil at The Old House, Poperinge.
 CYRIL CATTELL.

EAST YORKS.—Early in December **Bridlington** Branch members formed themselves into a 'ginger group' to ensure success for the Mayor's World Refugee Year appeal. Many local organisations and individuals responded in circulating gift envelopes. Soon the whole town was involved, and although the total sum raised is not yet known, **Bridlington** can surely congratulate themselves on doing a first-class job. **Easingwold** Branch having sponsored a concert in the town hall in aid of World Refugee Year are now making a house-to-house collection for the same cause. **Goole** Branch sent a message to many overseas units in advance of the Vigil and received some very interesting replies. **Selby** group is making good progress and with help from Round Table and Old Scouts Association members, decorated two hospitals for Christmas.

BILL HARDY.

We understand this account was written in the early hours of the morning, between spells of nursing his newly-born baby daughter, who only arrived on December 3. Congratulations Bill and Mrs. Hardy—Ed.



Christmas Mummies at the staff party at Headquarters. (l. to r.) F. G. Chesworth, Joyce Green, A. F. Warmington, Jack Clark, Padre Jim Davies, Violet Horsted and Ken Rogers

BEDS. & HERTS.—Another bonny baby sound in wind and limb, has arrived at **Marshallwick**, the third Branch to be recognised during 1959. One could fill the **JOURNAL** with stories of Christmas activities such as **Watford's** visit to an out-of-the-way Home for old people, their film-show at a hospital on Christmas Day, a visit to pantomime with deserving children, plus their regular hospital visits and help with football broadcasts. **Luton**, with **Biscot** Branch of W.A., sought out a few forgotten people for a friendly visit or a Christmas card. **Stopsley** took a personal gift to each resident at **Amphill** Cheshire Home which they visit regularly, whilst **Wolverton** and **Stony Stratford** repeated their large-scale acts of friendship for sick and elderly. **Biggleswade** have begun weekly visits to long-term patients in **Moggerhanger** Hospital. A member of **Luton** has become secretary for the town's committee for World Refugee Year. **Balford**, **Dunstable**, **Harpenden**, **Leighton Buzzard** and **Stopsley** each aid their funds by weekly open-air bookstalls. The Mayor of **Dunstable** congratulated the local Branch when past and present members met to celebrate its 21st Birthday.

FRANK R. FIGG.

Journal Smalls Small Advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 6d. a word (minimum 6s.). Editorial Office: Toc H, 47 Francis Street, London, S.W.1.

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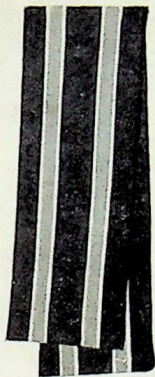
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